

12 January 2009

David Stringer  
[request-4656-74a10b63@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-4656-74a10b63@whatdotheyknow.com)  
(by email only)

*Dear Mr Stringer,*

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

You wrote on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to make a request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act for information relating to the National Security Forum. Specifically, you requested:

- a) details of the number of people/organisations appointed to the forum
- b) a list of panel members including names, relevant professional details/or the organisation they represent
- c) details of the number of meetings held by the forum, and the date of each of those meetings.
- d) copies of agenda and/or minutes for meetings detailed in answer to the previous question.

The Interim National Security Forum has not yet been constituted and has not met. As I am sure you will appreciate, until the final membership of the Forum is announced to Parliament it would not be appropriate to publish the names of members.

I am thus writing to decline your request as the information you have requested is exempt from Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act by virtue of section 22 (Information intended for future publication).

On a point of clarification with respect to your first and second points (a & b, above) I should explain that the individuals who have been invited to be members of the forum have been invited on the basis of their particular background and personal qualities. Although some of them work for a particular organisation they will not occupy their seat on the forum as representatives of any group or organisation, but solely as individuals whom the Prime Minister believes have a particular contribution to make to Government thinking on National Security.



If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number below in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Sue Gray  
Director  
Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2AS

e-mail: [foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk)

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

*Yours sincerely,*

*RCM Kingston*

**REBECCA KINGSTON**

